

Remarks

The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claim 19 under section 112. The specification describes the relationship shown in FIG. 4 at paragraph 0034 of the published US application. The entire female part of the locking device is described as being above the outer surface of the bottom wall. FIG. 14 of the application shows that the entire female part of the locking device is disposed above the outer surface of the bottom wall. The specification describes the relationship at paragraph 0048 of the published US application. In view of the disclosures in FIGS. 4 and 14 and the corresponding description in the specification, the Applicant has amended claim 19 to be more broad by reciting that the entire female part is disposed above or even with the outer surface of the bottom wall. The Applicant thus respectfully requests the section 112 rejection be withdrawn.

The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claim 19 based on the disclosures of Myszka. Claim 19 recites the relationship of the female part of the locking device with respect to the bottom wall of the container. Claim 19 requires the entire female part to be disposed even with or above the outer surface of the bottom wall. This configuration prevents the locking device from protruding from the base and interfering with any printed matter that is typically wrapped around the outer surface of the base. The Myszka reference has a female part of a locking device that extends far below and overlaps portions of the outer surface of the bottom wall. The Applicant respectfully traverses the conclusion set forth in the Final Office Action regarding the feature claimed in claim 19. Myszka's configurations use the structures that project beyond the bottom surface to perform functions such as holding an EAS tag and to connect the female part of the locking device to the bottom wall. There is thus no material in the Myszka reference that leads one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the structure recited in claim 19. Further, Myszka teaches away from the structure recited in claim 19. The Applicant thus submits the invention of claim 19 is patentable over the cited Myszka reference.

The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of the remaining claims based on Myszka under section 102 and 103. The Applicant respectfully submits the claims are patentable over the cited prior art reference to Myszka which specifically discloses that the female part of the locking device has outer surface that is frictionally received by the inner surface of the hub.

Claim 18 recites the use of a quick connect device. Claim 18 requires the quick connect device to include a retention device disposed on one of the hub and female part of the locking device and a cooperative retention device disposed on the other of the hub and the female part of the locking device that are releasably joined together in a resilient snap fit. The cited Myszka device discloses and teaches that its snap fit connection between the female part and the base of the container is located outwardly of the hub where fingers 300 engage bottom wall 48. Myszka depicts this relationship in FIG. 6. Myszka thus does not anticipate claim 18 because it does not disclose the quick connect device recited in claim 18. The Applicant also submits Myszka does not render the invention of claim 18 obvious. Myszka teaches away from the snap fit location recited in claim 18 and thus does not render the configuration of claim 18 obvious. Locating the quick connect device in the location of claim 18 provides the benefit not recognized in Myszka that the female part of the locking device can be disclosed entirely within the raised hub so that the locking device does not protrude and interfere with the outer dimensions of the container. Nothing in Myszka suggests the use of a releasable snap fit within the hub itself to join the female part of the locking device to the hub itself.

The Applicant respectfully traverses the conclusion set forth in the office action that the claimed quick connect device configurations "all are well known structures or methods of connecting two parts together." Page 3 of Final Office Action. The Applicant respectfully submits the configurations of the connections between the female part of the locking device and the hub are not well known structures. The claims do not simply recite a generic quick connection. Rather, the claims recite the location and configurations of the quick connection. Claim 18 requires a portion of the quick connect device to be on the hub. Claim 24

recites the configuration of the retention devices. Claim 28 recites that the female part of the locking device includes a retention device that is snap fit over the upper surface of the retention device of the hub. These locations and configurations are not well known. The Applicant thus requests under Section 2144.03 of the MPEP that the Examiner provide support for the assertions that these configurations are "well known."

Claim 24 also recites the structure of the quick connect device that holds the female part to the hub. Claim 24 requires the retention device to include a radial protrusion and the cooperative retention device to be in the form of a recess that receives the radial protrusion in a resilient snap fit. The Myszka device discloses and teaches a snug or frictional fit between the female part and the inner surface of the hub. Again, nothing in Myszka suggests the use of a releasable snap fit within the hub itself to join the female part of the locking device to the hub. The invention of claim 24 is thus patentable over the cited Myszka reference.

Claim 28 recites the relationship between the retention device of the hub and the retention device of the female part of the locking device. This claim requires the retention device of the female part of the locking device to extend through the hub and be snap fit over the upper surface of the retention device of the hub. This configuration is shown, for example, in FIGS. 9-14 of the application. The cited Myszka hub does not have a retention device having an upper surface with a portion of the female part of the locking device extending through the hub and snap fit over this upper surface. The recited configuration provides a secure connection between the female portion of the locking device and the hub that is difficult for a shoplifter to defeat. The Applicant thus respectfully submits the invention of claim 28 and its dependent claims is patentable over the cited reference.

The Applicant also submits the dependent claims recite subject matter that is independently patentable. For example, claim 29 requires the inner surface of the male part of the locking device to directly engage the upper surface of the female part of the locking device. The Final Office Action has not explained how

this limitation is disclosed or rendered obvious by the Myszka reference. The cited Myszka reference does not disclose, teach or suggest this arrangement. Myszka's female part of the locking device does not extend through the hub and thus cannot directly engage the inner surface of the male part of the locking device. Claim 29 is thus patentable over the cited reference.

The Applicant further submits the invention of claim 31 is patentable over the cited Myszka reference. Claim 31 requires the retention device to be disposed between the pair of hub arms that hold the disk to the hub. The Myszka reference discloses a hub with a continuous hub wall 27 that does not provide space for retention devices that interact with the female part of the locking device.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims and most earnestly solicits the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance for the claims.

Please call the undersigned attorney if any issues remain after this amendment.



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I hereby certify that this correspondence (10 page Amendment C in application serial no. 10/549,954 filed 12/14/2006) is being transmitted by facsimile to 571-273-8300 on August 20, 2009.



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